

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

FEA-01 /113 W

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R 111405Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4046

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1711

GENEVA FOR LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA

REF: STATE 053758

1. EMBASSY GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS
IN REFTEL, WHICH WE DISCUSSED WITH JORDANIAN LOS
DELEGATE DR WALEED SADI MARCH 11.

2. DR SADI STATED THAT HE HAS HAD PRE-
LIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI,
WHO INDICATED GOJ'S PREFERENCE FOR CLOSE CONSUL-
TATIONS PARTICULARLY EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA AND
FOR PLAYING A LOW-KEY IF NOT BACKSEAT ROLE IN
CONFERENCE AS PART OF GENERAL ARAB CONSENSUS. DR
SADI IMPLIED HOWEVER JORDAN PREPARED PLAY ACTIVE
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ROLE IN ARAB CAUCUS AND IN EVENT OF SPLIT ARAB

POSITION TO FOLLOW ITS OWN INTERESTS.

3. ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, DR SADI INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT, ALTHOUGH ARAB POSITION SOMEWHAT SPLIT, ARABS ARE TENDING TOWARDS MORE SUPPORT FOR CONCEPT OF UNIMPEDED PASSAGE AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE. HE INDICATED HOWEVER THAT STRAITS OF TIRAN IS EXCEPTION AND THAT JORDAN'S OWN PRELIMINARY POSITION IS IN SUPPORT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE BUT NOT UNIMPEDED TRANSIT ON TIRAN STRAITS ISSUE. WITHOUT GOING DEEPLY INTO SUBSTANCE OF TIRAN STRAITS ISSUE (PARA 1 E REFTEL), WE INDICATED US DEL WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH DR SADI AT BEGINNING OF GENEVA SESSION TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN. DR SADI SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE MEETING AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN GENEVA MARCH 13.

4. DR SADI INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED OUR OWN IMPRESSION THAT PRIME MINISTER RIFAI HAS NOT FULLY FOCUSED ON IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES (E.G., TIRAN STRAITS) BEING DEALT WITH AT LOS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT JORDANIAN DEPARTURE FROM OTHER ARAB STATES ON TIRAN STRAITS ISSUE WILL REQUIRE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL APPROVAL. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AND LOS DEL KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS ISSUE AND OF ANY FURTHER ELABORATION ON US POSITION MENTIONED PARA 1 E REFTEL, AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

5. INCIDENTALLY, DR SADI EVINced SOME CONCERN OVER HOW HE, AS SOLE MEMBER GOJ DELEGATION, COULD HANDLE MULTIPLE DEMANDS OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE USDEL CAN PROVIDE TO EASE HIS BURDENS. WE BELIEVE HE WILL BE A USEFUL CONTACT WITHIN ARAB CAUCUS.
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